

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present U.S. Patent application as amended herein. No claims have been added or amended. Claims 23-25 have been canceled. Thus, claims 1, 3-13, 15, 16 and 17-22 are pending.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 23-25 were rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,351,526 issued to Shaffer, et al. (*Shaffer*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,258 issued to Schmidt, et al. (*Schmidt*). Claims 23-25 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 23-25 is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 1, 3-13, 15, 16 and 17-22 were allowed.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1, 3-13, 15, 16 and 17-22 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present

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Examiner Jones, Prenell P.
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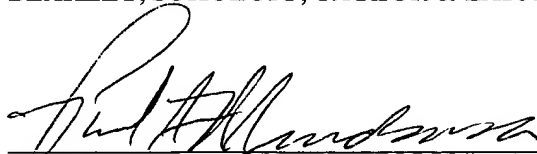
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Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN, LLP

Date:

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Paul A. Mendonsa
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,879

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(503) 439-8778

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